GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2603
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
REVIVAL PACKAGE FOR TEA PLANTATIONS
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for revival/taking over of closed/abandoned tea plantations from various States including Kerala and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) : With a view to revive the closed/abandoned tea gardens, 33 in number as on 1.4.2007, Government recently announced a rehabilitation package. 17 of these gardens are in Kerala, 14 in West Bengal and 2 in Assam. The package provides for re-structuring of the outstanding bank loans, waiver of Tea Board loans and extension of fresh working capital from banks with interest subsidy from Government and other admissible assistance under various plan schemes of the Tea Board. So far 11 closed tea gardens have reopened.

The Government has decided to invoke Section 16 E of the Tea Act for change in management of the gardens that do not reopen .This process has already started and public notice has been issued in respect of four gardens as of now.